



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Offering Place Based Investment Fund Grants

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman launched a new grant program today to fund community and economic development projects to enhance Indiana cities and towns. The new Place Based Investment Fund is a joint effort between the Indiana Office of Tourism Development and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

The grants will be targeted toward “quality of place” initiatives across Indiana, which improve both the living and the tourism experience in a community. Examples include sidewalks, streetscapes, parks, and other capital projects unique to an area.

“Indiana is filled with vibrant communities that offer Hoosiers and visitors unique experiences,” Lt. Governor Becky Skillman said. “This grant will allow leaders to enhance their community and create a lasting impact.”

Convention and visitor bureaus, local and regional economic development agencies, units of local government and community foundations are eligible to apply for a Place Based Investment Fund grant ranging between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Applicants are required to leverage local funding and partnerships.

The Place Based Investment Fund grant was created as a result of the 2011 Tourism in the 21st Century study, led by IOTD and OCRA with Ball State University and the University of Southern Indiana. The study included input from more than 200 local government and economic development officials who attended town hall meetings throughout Indiana. Also 500 stakeholders, including tourism experts, were surveyed.

Completed grant applications must be received by Friday, April 13. For more information on the Place Based Investment Fund and to apply for a grant, go to <http://www.in.gov/tourism/PBIfund.pdf>.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.